

PERMIAN FOSSIL MARINE INVERTEBRATES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY DESCRIBED BY ROBERT ETHERIDGE JUNIOR

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Three specimens of Permian marine fossil invertebrates, previously thought to be possibly lost but now known to be housed in the collections of the Museum of Victoria, are photographically illustrated for the first time and taxonomically reassessed. Lectotypes are formally selected for *Oriocrassatella stokesi* Etheridge fil. and *Bellerophon pennatus* Etheridge fil. The palaeobiogeography of *Oriocrassatella* is briefly reviewed.

ROBERT ETHERIDGE Junior described numerous Permian marine invertebrate fossils from the region of Treachery Bay, Port Keats area, Northern Territory, in a series of four reports published from 1895 to 1907. Many of the specimens that were originally collected by the Government Geologist of South Australia, Henry Yorke Lyell Brown, and his staff are housed in the South Australian Museum and several of these have been refigured (Dickins 1963; Archbold 1981, 1986; Archbold & Thomas 1993). However a few important specimens were not located in the South Australian Museum (Dickins 1963: 103, 186); currently they are housed in the Museum of Victoria.

The Museum of Victoria obtained the specimens when it purchased in 1972 the fossil collections of the Kyancutta Museum (South Australia). It appears likely that the Kyancutta Museum obtained the material from the Port Adelaide Institute Museum which received material donated by H. Y. L. Brown (Dr T. A. Darragh, Museum of Victoria personal communication to N.W.A.). The present work photographically illustrates the specimens from the Museum of Victoria for the first time and designates lectotypes for the species *Oriocrassatella stokesi* Etheridge fil. and *Bellerophon pennatus* Etheridge fil. The missing ventral valve internal mould of *Megasteges septentrionalis* (Etheridge fil.), reported by Archbold (1986), is re-illustrated and discussed briefly.

STRATIGRAPHY, LOCALITIES AND AGE

The onshore Permian stratigraphy of the Port Keats District, Bonaparte Basin, Northern Territory has been documented by Thomas (1957, 1958)

and Dickins et al. (1972) and summarised by Skwarko (1993a). Faunal horizons within the onshore sequence were progressively elucidated by Thomas (1957), Dickins et al. (1972) and Archbold (1988). A relatively informal series of stratigraphical names was developed for the onshore Permian sequence as compared with a formal named sequence of units for offshore sequences (see tables 4 and 5 in Skwarko 1993a). Table 1 summarises the onshore terminology of various authors and the current understanding of faunal horizons in the Port Keats District compared with both the Australian Geological Survey Timescale (see Archbold & Dickins 1996) and the brachiopod zonation scheme for the Permian of Western Australia (Archbold 1993, 1995).

Material illustrated and discussed herein comes from two faunal horizons within the Port Keats sequence. *Oriocrassatella stokesi* and *Bellerophon pennatus* were collected from the marine beds which crop out at Fossil Head. These beds share numerous brachiopod species with the fauna of the Coolkilya Sandstone of the Carnarvon Basin and the Lightjack Formation of the Canning Basin (Archbold 1993). The Faunas of these units are considered to belong to the Middle to Late Kungurian *Neochonetes* (*Sommeriella*) *afanasyevae* Zone, a view consistent with earlier studies of the bivalves (Dickins 1956). The specimen of *Megasteges septentrionalis*, which could not be located for the revision of the species (Archbold 1986), came from Cape Dombey, from beds high in the 'Upper Marine Beds' of Thomas (1957) considered to be Dzhulfian in age (previously referred to the Chhidruan, see Archbold 1988) and belonging to the *Waagenoconcha* (*Wimonoconcha*) *imperfecta* Zone.

SERIES		STAGES		WESTERNAUSTRALIA BRACHIOPOD ZONATION		DEVELOPMENT OF ONSHORE STRATIGRAPHY AND BIOSTRATIGRAPHY, BONAPARTE BASIN					
						ETHERIDGE, 1907	THOMAS, 1957	DICKINS et al., 1972	BRACHIOPOD ZONES ARCHBOLD, 1988, 1993		
LATE PERMIAN	TATARIAN	DZHUFLIFIAN	CHANGHENGIAN	DORASHAMIAN	Waagenoconcha (Wiman.) imperfecta	Cape Ford and Cape Darabey Beds	Upper Marine Beds	Upper Marine Beds	Waagenoconcha (Wiman.) imperfecta		
					Livingia magnifica		Assemblage D				
							Assemblage C		Livingia magnifica		
	KAZANIAN	MIDIAN					PORT KEATS GROUP	Plant bearing Sandstones	Plant bearing Sandstones		
								Assemblage B	Assemblage B		
	KUNGURIAN	ARTINSKIAN					Fossil Head Sandstones	Lower Marine Beds	Beds at Fossil Head	Neochonetes (Sommerella) afanasiyevae	
								Assemblage A.			
	EARLY PERMIAN	TATURIAN	SAKMARIAN	AKTASTI	BAIGENDZHINIAN	Sulciplicia occidentalis	Fossil Head Sandstones	Fossil Head Sandstones	Locality 627 Beds	Wyndhamia colemani	
						Fusiplifier coalkiyavensis					
		ASSELIAN									Keep Inlet Beds
Neochonetes (Sommerella) afanasiyevae											
											Tainquistia magna
											Fusiplifier byroensis
											Wyndhamia colemani
											Echinolalia prideri
											Strophalolia jimbaensis
											Neo. (S.) sp. nov. A
											Strophalolia Irwinensis
											Trigenotreta occidentalis
											Lyania lyon?

Table 1. Development of stratigraphy of onshore Permian sequence of the Port Keats District, Northern Territory and brachiopod zones currently recognised within the sequence.

PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHY
OF *ORIOCRASSATELLA*

The occurrence of crassatellid bivalves in Late Palaeozoic strata was first documented in detail in a beautifully illustrated account by Yakovlev (1902) that has often been overlooked by subsequent workers. Yakovlev studied a range of specimens, from numerous localities within the Kazanian of the Russian platform, referred to the species described by Golovkinskiy (1868: 368, pl. 3, figs 21–23) as *Schizodus planus*. Golovkinskiy's lithographic illustrations do not accurately show the dentition of the species but Yakovlev's photographic illustrations (1902, pl. 10, figs 1–7) provide clear details of the exterior of the species and the dentition of both valves. Yakovlev (1928) subsequently designated Golovkinskiy's species as the type species of *Procrassatella*. In 1902 he referred *Schizodus planus* to the Cretaceous genus *Crassatellina* Meek. Etheridge (1907) independently recognised the occurrence of crassatellid bivalves in the Late Palaeozoic sequence at Fossil Head, Northern Territory, and named the new genus *Oriocrassatella*, with type species *O. Stokesi*.

Since the pioneer studies reviewed above, numerous reports of *Procrassatella* and *Oriocrassatella* have been made around the globe. *Procrassatella* was considered to be a junior subjective synonym of *Oriocrassatella* by Newell (1958), a view anticipated by Teichert (1951: 82), and this has been accepted by subsequent authors.

The geologically oldest record of *Oriocrassatella* is that of *O. compressa* Maxwell (1964) from the Namurian of the Barrington District, New South Wales (Campbell & McKelvey 1972). *O. compressa* was originally described from localities attributed to the Late Carboniferous and Early Permian Rands and Burnett Formations of the Yarrol Region, Queensland (Maxwell, 1964). However after reassessment of the localities by one of us (J.M.D.) they are considered to be of comparable age to the New South Wales occurrences.

Numerous records of *Oriocrassatella* from throughout Gondwanaland and peripheral regions are known from the Sakmarian and Early Artinskian. South American records include those from Argentina (Gonzalez 1976, 1982; Mancenido et al. 1976). Australian records are from the Bowen Basin of Queensland (Dickins 1961) and the Perth, Carnarvon and Canning Basins of Western Australia (Dickins 1963; Dickins & Skwarko 1993). Late Sakmarian–Aktastinian records of the genus are also known from the Badhaura Formation, Rajasthan, Peninsula India (Dickins & Shah 1979). Kashmir (Reed 1932),

Northwest Xizang (Liu & Cui 1983), Afghanistan (Termier et al. 1974) and Oman (Dickins & Shah 1979).

Baigendzhinian records of the genus are those from the Coyrie Formation and Mallens Sandstone of the Carnarvon Basin, Western Australia (Dickins 1963; Dickins & Skwarko 1993) and the Aimau Formation, Irian Jaya (Dickins & Skwarko 1981). A Brazilian record appears to be of Baigendzhinian age (Rocha Campos 1970; Dickins 1993: 528).

Kungurian records of *Oriocrassatella* are those of the type species, *O. stokesi*, from the Nalbia and Coolkilya Sandstones of the Carnarvon Basin, the Lightjack Formation of the Canning Basin and the beds at Fossil Head, Bonaparte Basin, and an apparently closely related species from the Munurudshakskiy Horizon of Prikolymia and the upper Magiveemskoi Suite of the Omolon Massif, Northeastern Siberia. The latter species was described and figured as *Astartella omolonica* by Muromtseva (1984: 87, pl. 38, figs 12–16).

The Late Ufimian and Kazanian were apparently times of radiation of the genus into the Northern Hemisphere with species in Greenland (Newell 1955), Spitzbergen (Boyd & Newell 1977), Arctic Russia including the Taimyr Peninsula, the Verkhoyansk Mountains, Kanin Peninsula, the Pechora Basin and the Pay-Khoya (Muromtseva 1984; Kanev 1994), the Russian platform (Golovkinskiy 1868; Yakovlev 1902) and western Primor'ya (Lobanova 1961). North American occurrences are restricted to two localities in Wyoming and one in Utah (Boyd & Newell 1968, 1977). Southern Hemisphere Late Ufimian–Kazanian occurrences appear to be restricted to the faunizone 10 of Tasmania (Clarke & Farmer 1976: 107; Clarke 1987: 262).

Reports of *Oriocrassatella* younger than the Kazanian are less well documented but include reports from the Dzhulfian of Basleo and correlative localities in Timor (Hamlet 1928; Wannier 1940) and the Cherrabun Member of the Hardman Formation, Canning Basin, Western Australia (Dickins et al. 1989; Skwarko 1993b). From personal observation (J.M.D.) an undescribed species occurs in the Wairaki Breccia, Southland, New Zealand, of possible Dzhulfian age. A report of small *Oriocrassatella* (as *Procrassatella*) specimens from the Kaliningrad region Russia (eastern Zechstein Basin) by Suveizdas (1975: 145, pl. 30, figs 22, 23) is of considerable interest in view of the apparent absence of the genus in the western part of the Zechstein sea (Logan 1967).

The current knowledge of the distribution in space and time of *Oriocrassatella* may indicate

a complex history of migration through time, shifting from a Southern Hemisphere origin in the Carboniferous to a broad global distribution in the Late Permian. Nevertheless the genus appears to have avoided, during its evolution and migrations, the coldest waters of the Gondwanaland region. *Oriocrassatella* appears to have been restricted in its habitat to sub-littoral elastic deposits.

SYSTEMATIC PALAEOONTOLOGY

Phylum MOLLUSCA

Class BIVALVIA

Superfamily CRASSATELLACEA

Ferussac, 1822

Family CRASSATELLIDAE Ferussac, 1822

Subfamily ORIOCRASSATELLINAE

Boyd and Newell, 1968

Genus *Oriocrassatella* Etheridge, 1907

Type species. *Oriocrassatella Stokesi* Etheridge, 1907, from the Kungurian beds at Fossil Head, Port Keats District, Bonaparte Basin, Northern Territory.

Subjective junior synonym. *Procrassatella* Yakovlev, 1928; type species *Schizodus planus* Golovkinskiy, 1868, from the Kazanian of the Russian Platform.

Comments. *Oriocrassatella stokesi* has been described by a number of authors (Etheridge 1907; Prendergast 1935; Dickins 1956, 1963; Newell 1958; Dickins & Skwarko 1993) and is known from the Nalbia and Coolkilya Sandstones of the Carnarvon Basin, the Lightjack Formation of the Canning Basin and the beds at Fossil Head, Bonaparte Basin. Maxwell (1964: 12) indicated, in error, that the type specimens came from the Nalbia and Coolkilya Sandstones of the Carnarvon Basin. All occurrences of the species are considered to be Kungurian in age (Archbold & Dickins 1996).

Oriocrassatella stokesi Etheridge, 1907

Fig. 1A, B, I

Edmondia, or *Chaenomya*—Etheridge 1895: 33.

Edmondia—Etheridge 1897: 15, pl. 1, fig. 10.

Oriocrassatella Stokesii—Etheridge 1906: 41 (*nomen nudum*).

Oriocrassatella Stokesi—Etheridge 1907: 9, pl. 6, figs 2–5.

cf. *Protoschizodus*—Chapman 1924a: 36.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Eth. fil., Chapman 1924b: 7.

Protoschizodus c.f.—Chapman 1924c: 19.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Prendergast 1935: 25, pl. 2, figs 19, 20.

Oriocrassatella—Teichert 1941: 383.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Teichert 1952: 117, 129, 130.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Thomas & Dickins 1954: 221.

Oriocrassatella—Condon 1954: 85, 86, 87, 92, 94, 95.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Dickins 1956: 33, pl. 6, figs 8–14.

Oriocrassatella—Teichert 1957: 68.

Oriocrassatella stokesi Eth., Thomas 1957: 180.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Newell 1958: 3, fig. 2.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge fil., Dickins in Guppy et al. 1958: 53.

Oriocrassatella stokesi Eth., Thomas 1958: 2.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Dickins 1963: 186, pl. 18, figs 6–15.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Condon 1967: 173, 184.

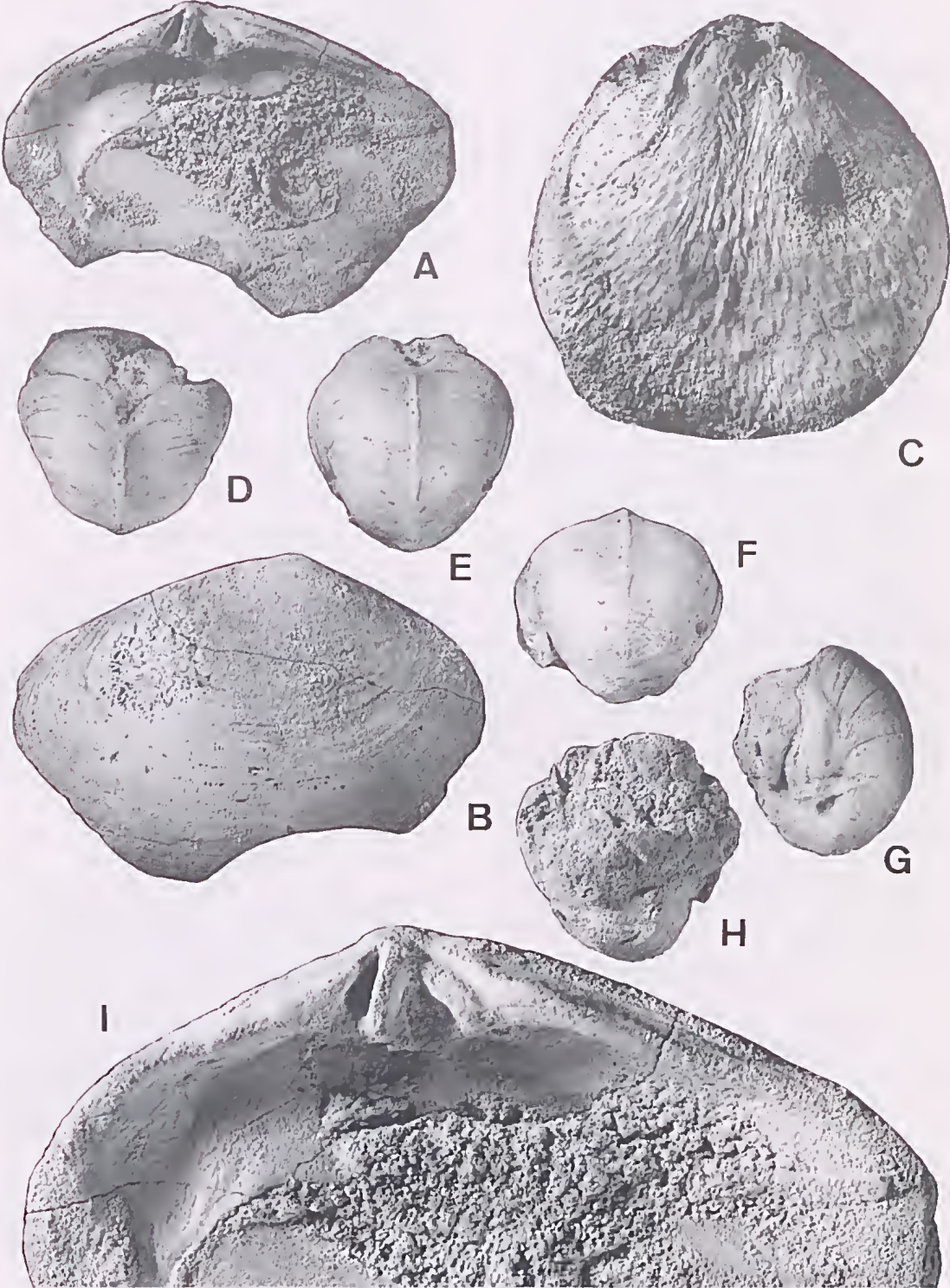
Oriocrassatella stokesi—Playford et al 1975: 288.

Oriocrassatella stokesi—Etheridge Jnr, Dickins & Skwarko 1993, microfiche supplement, p. 40, pl. 48, figs 15–17.

Lectotype. Hércin selected. The right valve figured by Etheridge (1907, pl. 6, figs 2, 3), housed in the collections of the Museum of Victoria (registered number NMV P30707) and refigured herein in Fig. 1A, B and I. The second specimen figured by Etheridge (1907, pl. 6 figs 4, 5) and Dickins (1963, pl. 18, fig. 7) becomes the paralectotype. Dickins (1963, pl. 18, fig. 8) also figured a plaster replica of the hinge region of what is now the lectotype.

Comments. The lectotype is the best preserved right valve yet known from the type locality. We note that the posterodorsal profile is concave unlike the convex profile of *O. elongata* Boyd & Newell (1968: 41) and the straight or gently concave posterodorsal profile of *O. plana* Golovkinskiy, see Yakovlev (1902, pl. 10, figs 1, 4–7) and Boyd & Newell (1977, figs A, B, E, G–1). We also note that the anterior cardinal tooth of the lectotype is poorly developed and hence differs subtly from the well developed teeth of Late Permian species.

Fig. 1. A, B, D–I all from beds at Fossil Head, Treachery Bay, Port Keats Area, Bonaparte Basin, Northern Territory. C from beds at Cape Dombey, Port Keats Area, Bonaparte Basin, Northern Territory. A, B, I, *Oriocrassatella stokesi* Etheridge fil., 1907, lectotype, NMV P30707, natural cast of a right valve in interior and exterior views, $\times 1$, and hinge interior $\times 2.2$. D–H, *Bellerophon pennatus* Etheridge fil., lectotype, NMV P30031, natural cast of shell in anterior, adapertural, posterior adapertural, side and apertural views, $\times 1$. C, *Megasteges septentrionalis* Etheridge fil., NMV P30708, ventral valve internal mould, $\times 1$.



Class GASTROPODA

Superfamily BELLEROPHONTACEA

McCoy, 1851

Family BELLEROPHONTIDAE McCoy, 1851

Genus *Bellerophon* Denys de Montfort, 1808

Type species. *Bellerophon vasulites* Denys de Montfort, 1808, see Knight (1941: 52-54, pl. 11, fig. 3a-e).

***Bellerophon pennatus* Etheridge, 1907**

Fig. 1D-H

Bellerophon—Etheridge, 1895: 33.

Bellerophon sp.—Etheridge, 1897: 16, pl. 1, figs 14, 15.

Bellerophon costatus var. *pennatus*, var. nov.—Etheridge, 1906: 41 (*nomen nudum*).

Bellerophon costatus—J. de C. Sby, var. *pennatus*, var. nov.—Etheridge, 1907: 10, pl. 7, figs 5-7.

Bellerophon pennatus Eth., Thomas 1957: 180.

Bellerophon pennatus Eth., Thomas 1958: 2.

Lectotype. It is not clear from Etheridge's description of his variety *pennatus* how many specimens he had before him. He does, however, provide a clue that more than one specimen was included within the variety when he stated that 'this form has already been figured from imperfect material' (Etheridge 1907: 10), in reference to his 1897 report. We therefore designate the single specimen he figured in 1907 (pl. 7, figs 5-7) as the lectotype of the variety and raise the variety to species status as a distinctive species of Australian Permian *Bellerophon*. The specimen is registered as NMV P30031 in the collections of the Museum of Victoria.

Comments. The species is differentiated from other Western Australian species described by Dickins (1963) by its moderately narrow sinus, narrow slit and relatively sharp ridge at the slit band. Fine growth lines are distinct and are progressively well marked towards the aperture.

Phylum BRACHIOPODA

Class ARTICULATA

Superfamily AULOSTEGACEA

Muir-Wood & Cooper, 1960

Family AULOSTEGIDAE

Muir-Wood & Cooper, 1960

Genus *Megasteges* Waterhouse, 1975

Type species. *Megasteges nepalensis* Waterhouse, 1975.

***Megasteges septentrionalis* (Etheridge, 1907)**

Fig. 1C

Aulosteges baracoodensis—Etheridge, 1906: 41.

Aulosteges baracoodensis var. *septentrionalis*—Etheridge, 1907: 6, pl. 1, figs 1-5.

Megasteges septentrionalis—(Etheridge)—Archbold, 1986: 49, fig. 1A-F (with synonymy).

Megasteges septentrionalis—(Etheridge Jnr)—Archbold et al., 1993: 226, pl. 32, figs 7, 10, 11.

Lectotype. South Australian Museum specimen P2135, an internal mould of a conjoined shell, figured and selected by Archbold (1986: 49, fig. 1A, B).

Comments. When re-establishing the species, Archbold (1986: 51) noted that one internal mould of a ventral valve, figured by Etheridge (1907, pl. 1, fig. 3) could not be located. It is housed in the collections of the Museum of Victoria with the registered number NMV P30708 and is refigured herein (Fig. 1C). The specimen is typical of the species as redescribed by Archbold (1986).

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